

Questions about Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) to Assist Victims of Hurricane Katrina

Q. I have applied for an ITIN, but have not received it. What steps can I take now?

For those individuals who have already requested an ITIN but have not received their number, please call the customer service number at 1-800-829-1040. An IRS employee will be able to inform you of the status of your application. If a number has been assigned, the employee may be able to release that number to you over the telephone by following proper disclosure guidelines. If you have a current mailing address where you can safely receive mail, please provide that information to us and the ITIN assignment letter can be reissued.

If your application for an ITIN was prepared by a Certifying Acceptance Agent, you should try to contact that individual directly. They may be able to provide you with the information and save you additional research time.

Q. I was previously issued an ITIN and filed a U.S. Federal Income Tax Return. How can I obtain information about my taxes?

If you were previously issued an ITIN and used that number to file a U.S. Federal Income Tax Return, you can obtain a free copy of your tax transcript by calling 1-866-562-5227 (from 7:00a.m. to 10:00 p.m. local time). This is a special toll-free telephone number for use by taxpayers affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Should you need a copy of the complete tax return to apply for aid or for other purposes, you can complete Form 4506, *Request for Copy of Tax Return*, and the normal user fee will be waived by writing "Hurricane Katrina" in red across the top margin of the Form 4506.

Q. I want to open up a bank account. I am not eligible for an SSN, and my local bank states that I need an ITIN first. How can I apply for one?

For those taxpayers who are not eligible to receive a Social Security Number, but still have access to their personal records and documents, an ITIN can be obtained by completing IRS Form W-7 and attaching the required supplemental information. If you meet the requirements for Exception 1, you will not need to file a valid U.S. tax return to obtain a number. (Refer to the Form W-7 and Instructions at www.irs.gov.)

Applicants, who do not have access to their personal records and documents, should speak to a customer service representative at their local bank. The U.S. Patriot Act provides guidelines to financial institutions for opening up bank accounts for those people who do not possess a taxpayer identification number.